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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Ukrainian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Black Sea Naval Vessel Sightings 2. Observations in Zhdanov and Kerch	DATE DISTR.	01 April 1960
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[Redacted]
 reports on naval vessel sightings and observations in
 Kerch and Zhdanov

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Att. No. Subject

1.

[Redacted] sighting of a formation
 of two cruisers flanked by six smaller warships, not further
 identified; sighting of three possible escort vessels, not
 further identified; sightings of minor naval surface craft; 50X1-HUM
 jet aircraft at an airfield in the Kerch area; port controls
 at Zhdanov; sighting of a cruiser and destroyer, not further
 identified; and sighting of a possible escort vessel with
 deck apparatus

2.

[Redacted] naval vessel sightings off
 the Crimean coast, including two light cruisers, not further
 identified, and two submarines, 50X1-HUM
 port controls at Zhdanov; and foreign and Soviet merchant
 vessel sightings in the harbor at Zhdanov.

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STATE	X ARMY	X NAVY	W X AIR	X NSA	X FBI	NIC	X	
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Att. 2

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PORT OF ZHDANOV

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Observations on the way

[redacted] two light cruisers and two submarines flying the Soviet 50X1-HUM

flag in the area between SEVASTOPOL' and Cape AYTODOR [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] These ships

[redacted] were carrying out combined naval exercises without the use of artillery. 50X1-HUM

[redacted] One of the cruisers saw [redacted] freighter from a distance, left the formation, proceeded toward freighter, and asked for freighter's name, home port, and destination. After the information had been given, the cruiser turned about and rejoined the other three ships.

A constant play of powerful searchlights was observed along the coast
in the vicinity of KERCH' during the night. 50X1-HUM

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[Redacted]

Two Russian freighters in ballast and a patrol vessel arrived in port

The freighters loaded general cargo and a number of motor vehicles on the 50X1-HUM decks. The two freighters were of 1,500 to 2,000 tons, from 60 to 70 meters long, with engine at the stern, and each had two hatches and four booms. Both were equipped with radar.

The Yugoslav motorship Ljubljana and another Yugoslav motorship of about 3,000-4,000 tons took on powdered Russian anthracite coal.

During freighter's stay in port, she took on a supply of 100 tons of fuel oil from a reinforced concrete barge moored at the curve of the seawall. The barge was equipped with its own hoses and adapters for this operation, which lasted about 2 hours.

[Redacted] the captain of the barge could be easily bribed; 50X1-HUM for small gifts he supplied more fuel oil than was officially requested.

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MILITARY INFORMATION ON THE USSR: PORT OF ZHDANOV

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Naval vessels met on way

A naval squadron of eight vessels, located very near $44^{\circ} 05' N$; $33^{\circ} 00' E$, and proceeding north.

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Judging from the distance between the navigation lights on the individual vessels, they were probably two cruisers escorted by six smaller vessels. If the freighter had kept on its course, it might have passed through the middle of the squadron, but it had to turn to the right, following instructions to pass astern transmitted by one of the leading vessels by luminous signals in international code. The formation of the naval vessels was as follows:

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Three naval vessels, presumably corvettes, were on maneuvers at a point about 6 miles southeast of Cape MEGANOM

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The ships made sudden turns from one side to the other and changed places in line from time to time. The observation was made from a distance of 4-5 miles, so that no details were noted.

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At the same time, a floating crane being towed eastward was observed at $44^{\circ} 32' 5'' N$; $35^{\circ} 15' E$.

Two tugs moored to two cylindrical buoys were observed at $44^{\circ} 48' N$; $35^{\circ} 38' E$

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On the same occasion, a submarine approaching from the east on a course of 258° . A little before coming abreast of the freighter, the vessel started to submerge and disappeared beneath the water in about 3 minutes. The submarine was at least 3 miles away, so that, also on this occasion, no details could be observed.

Two warships, presumably destroyers, were observed maneuvering at $44^{\circ} 50' N$; $35^{\circ} 48' E$

One of the ships had a captive

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balloon at medium height. It was pulled in and when it was a few meters above the deck the two ships moved off toward the northwest.

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A minesweeper at rest at $40^{\circ} 44' N$; $36^{\circ} 00' E$ was observed

a. stack: one, slightly removed from the navigating bridge and raked toward the stern;

b. mast: one pole mast at the after section of the navigating bridge. A radar antenna was observed;

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c.

d. outline: raked bow but straight [up and down]; a step forward of the bridge; transom stern;

e. armament: a shielded gun at the bow, and a machine gun on the deckhouse between the funnel and a large roller set up at the stern;

f. characteristics: two lateral tubes parallel to the stem and estimated to be at least 10-11 centimeters in diameter; a large cylinder with windlass at the stern, a characteristic of magnetic minesweepers.

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[redacted] in the YENIKALE area of Kerch Canal, about 15 jet planes were observed on a field, including one large four-jet plane

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Miscellaneous information

The floating dock moored in the industrial zone of the port was occupied by a ship of about 2,500 tons under repair.

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[redacted] there were no longer any restrictions on photographing the port areas, and that foreigners going ashore could now take along their cameras.

Soviet passenger steamer [redacted] the Onega was equipped with all of the most modern navigational instruments, including two radar sets. The rudder was electrically operated to move to the left, the center, and the right respectively, by means of three buttons.

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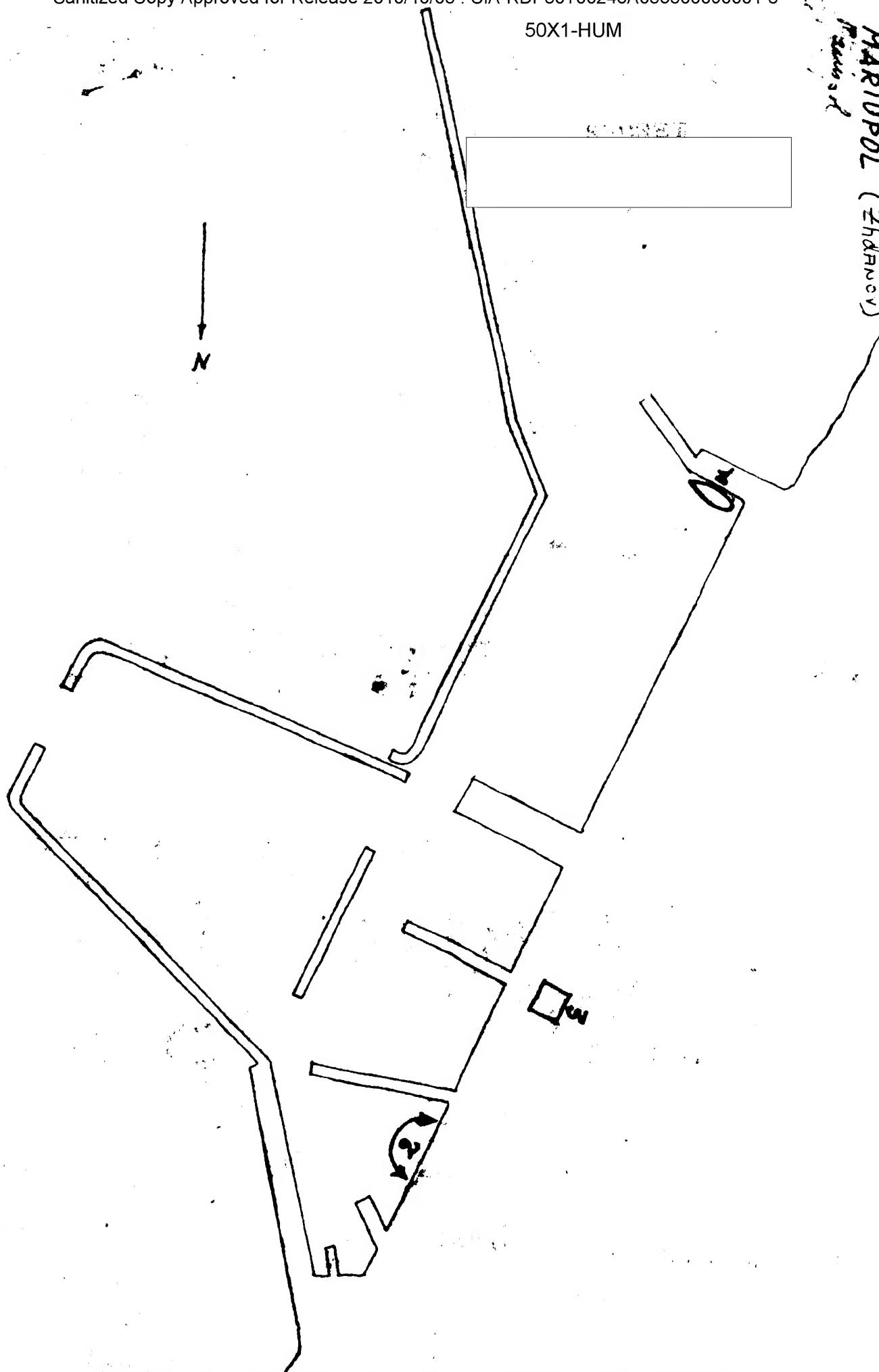
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MARIUPOL (Zhdanov)
[REDACTED]



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MARIUPOL [Zhdanov]

Observations on the way

[redacted] there was a Duca d'Aosta ["Stalingrad"] class cruiser cruising back and forth in the area between Cape Aytodor and MELANGAVI [unidentified] on the Crimean Peninsula. In the offing, there was a destroyer type vessel with targets in tow; [redacted]

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Outside of the Strait of Kerch, opposite BUAZIL [unidentified], [redacted]

[redacted] an MAS-type naval vessel, or a small destroyer, without a flag and apparently without personnel on board, moored at the bow and at the stern to two buoys. On the deck, [redacted] four pyramids with square bases arranged horizontally and pointing in the four directions [of the compass]; [redacted] a horizontal steel network [redacted] supported [redacted] on four steel pedestals.

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Abreast of Cape Aytodor, [redacted] a number of Soviet jet planes in flight. [redacted] they were carrying out exercises with the above-mentioned cruiser.

In the Strait of Kerch, [redacted] an airfield with numerous jet planes [redacted]

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[redacted] the signal buoys on the shoals opposite the southern

entrance to the Strait were often moved.

The Port of Mariupol

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No military vessels were observed in the port.

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[redacted] little traffic in the port, a few Soviet and no foreign ships.

[redacted] there were floating docks at Number 2 on the map, and

[redacted] the shipyards were probably also located there.

[redacted] one grain elevator at Number 3 on the map.

There were water mains along all the piers.